Concept of Science Channel

2588. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the very concept of a Science Channel is now under reconsideration;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to handover the Science Channel's operations to a private party;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the DECU-Vigyan Prasar Combine would not be able to deliver the goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. The concept of science channel is under active consideration.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir. Development and Educational Communication Unit (DECU)/ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Vigyan Prasar (VP) will produce the programmes and capsule them for transmission. Programmes would be produced both in-house and also be outsourced to suitable agencies.

Setting up of Science Research Foundation

2589. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to set up a science research foundation at cost of Rs. 1000 Crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the proposed research foundation would be an autonomous organisation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?